

IN THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Previously Presented) An appliance for protection against impact and strain injury
2 including a panel comprising a plurality of interconnected plates of an impact-resistant material
3 adapted to be attached to an article to be worn about a part of the body such as to permit limited
4 relative movement between the plates; at least some of the plates being aligned and movable along
5 a common backing member; wherein the backing member formed of at least one strip of a hook
6 and loop fastener with the interconnected plates threadedly engages thereon in mutually
7 overlapping relationship; and wherein the backing member forms, or includes, a fastener for
8 detachably mounting the panel on an article to be worn.

1 2. (Original) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the backing member is a
2 ligament extending centrally along the appliance.

1 3. (Original) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the backing member is
2 comprised by two or more ligaments extending along the appliance in spaced disposition.

1 4. (Canceled)

1 5. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein at least two of the
2 interconnected plates are mounted in fixed relative disposition along the backing member.

1 6. (Canceled)

1 7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Currently Amended) An appliance according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein the fastener is a
2 hook and loop fastener.

1 9. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, contained within a sleeve
2 removably or permanently attached to a garment.

1 10. (Currently Amended) An appliance according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein said at least
2 two of the interconnected plates are attached by stitching to the backing member.

1 11. (Canceled)

1 12. (Original) An appliance according to claim 8, wherein a strip of the hook and loop
2 fastener extends along and is attached to the backing member.

1 13. (Original) An appliance according to claim 12, wherein the strip of hook and loop
2 fastener has a self-adhesive backing for attachment to the backing member.

1 14. (Original) An appliance according to claim 9, wherein the sleeve is open-ended to
2 receive the appliance, the open end or ends being closable by a strip of hook and loop fastener.

1 15. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein several strips of
2 such appliance are removably attached to the back of a glove.

1 16. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein several strips of
2 such appliance are attached to a sock thus selectively to provide a shin guard, ankle guard or a
3 guard at the rear to protect the Achilles tendon region.

1 17. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the or at least
2 some of the interconnected plates are formed such as to consist individually of an outer shell and
3 an inner core having, relative to the outer shell, more highly impact-resistant properties.

1 18. (Canceled)

1 19. (Original) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the backing member extends
2 centrally along the row of interconnected plates, and further fastening means are provided
3 removably to fasten outer side regions of at least some of said plates to a garment thus to prevent
4 said side regions from lifting in use.